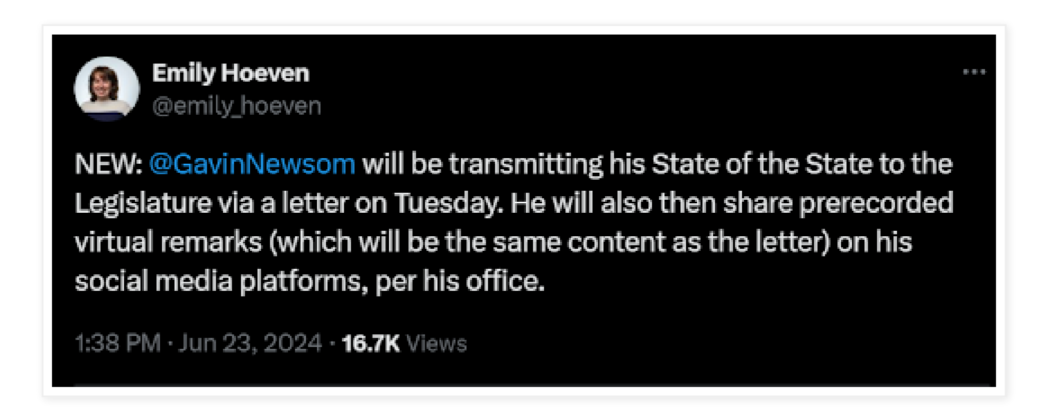


UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Monday, June 24, 2024

What state are we in?



We'll find out tomorrow what state we are in, as per the tweet above. Normally, the constitutionally-required State of the State message from the governor is delivered early on in the calendar year. This time it has been delayed and will be delivered in an unusual fashion. Perhaps the governor was waiting for a final budget deal - as described in the prior post on this blog - to be reached.

Link to the tweet: https://x.com/emily_hoeven/status/1804977347571118495.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:00 AM   No comments:

Labels: governor, politics

Adding it all up

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW May 2024
- CUCFA Statement On Campus Protests
- We Support BOARS Math Requirements Recommendation
- Support AB-2349 – The Cal-Bridge Program
- Drop the Charges Against January Regents' Meeting Protestors

Remaking the University

- The Authoritarian Personality Comes to College - 5/2/2024
- The New McCarthyism Intensifies - 4/30/2024
- THE STRIKE - 12/6/2022

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

Search This Blog



Yesterday, we noted that while we don't have a definitive final version of the UC part of the state budget accord, we would look at the macro perspective. Below is a table comparing the governor's May Revise, the legislature's proposal at some point in the process, and then the final deal. We remind readers that budgets are forecasts and projections. So what is on paper today is unlikely to be the result a year from now. But in broad terms, this year ends with a significant deficit due in part to large overestimates of revenue which, in turn, were due in part to delayed income tax receipts making it hard to estimate what revenues would be.

Although the budget for the coming 2024-25 fiscal year will undoubtedly be described as "balanced," it in fact pull down total reserves associated with the general fund by over $4 billion, i.e., a deficit of that amount. The deal in fact results in a bigger deficit than the original legislative proposal and the May Revise, but all proposals pull down reserves and are thus deficit budgets. What happens to the general state of the economy and the stock market will influence what actually happens as opposed to what's projected.

Budget Data - $Millions

$millions	May Revise 2023-24	May Revise 2024-25	Legislature 2023-24	Legislature 2024-25	Deal 2023-24	Deal 2024-25
Balance GF-Start	$ 46,260.0	$ 9,726.7	$ 46,219.0	$ 13,766.1	$ 47,119	$ 13,433
Revenue & Transfers	$189,354.2	$ 205,248.7	$ 189,318.2	$ 211,792.4	$ 189,399	$ 212,139
Expenditures	$225,887.5	$ 200,974.2	$ 221,771.1	$ 211,329.3	$ 223,075	$ 211,504
GF Surplus or Deficit	$ (36,533.3)	$ 4,274.5	$ (32,452.9)	$ 463.1	$ (33,676)	$ 635
Balance GF-End	$ 9,726.7	$ 14,001.2	$ 13,766.1	$ 14,229.3	$ 13,443	$ 14,068
Safety Net	$ 900.0	$ -	$ 900.0	$ 450.0	$ 900	$ -
BSA (rainy day)	$ 22,555.0	$ 19,429.0	$ 22,640.0	$ 18,014.0	$ -	$ 1,054
Public School	$ 2,589.8	$ -	$ -	$ 1,054.0	$ 22,559	$ 17,633
Total Reserves	$ 35,771.5	$ 33,430.2	$ 37,306.1	$ 33,747.3	$ 36,902	$ 32,755
Total Surplus or Deficit		$ (2,341.30)		$ (3,558.80)		$ (4,147.00)

Source: https://jasonsisney.substack.com/p/governor-and-legislative-leaders-588. We have rearranged the figures. In the case of the Balance GF-End figure for 2024-25, there is a difference between the figure shown above and the figures on the original table of $10 million. Possibly, there is a typo that accounts for the difference.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, LAO, legislature, politics, State Budget, UC budget crisis

Search

UC Faculty Associations

- UCLA Faculty Association
- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

UC (1822) politics (1723) UC Regents (1709) health care (1281) State Budget (1191) governor (1046) UC budget crisis (909) UC-Berkeley (828) pension (639) diversity (620) pensions (588) tuition (518) admissions (485) athletics (439) CSU (377) transportation (363) UC-Davis (352) online education (333) ucrp (293) audio (287) UCOP (282) new hotel-conference center (281) UC enrollment (267) uc retirement (265) traffic (259) enrollment (239) UC-San Diego (227) community colleges (221) LAO (201) UC-Irvine (171) fund raising (154) UC-Santa Barbara (138) UC-Santa Cruz (133) ballot

Law Schools' Statement

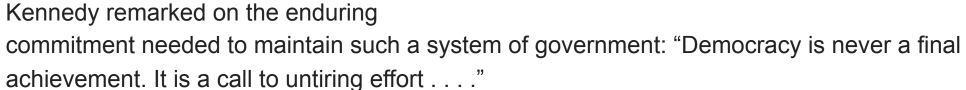


The American Bar Association released a statement by law school deans around the country (including UCLA and other UCs):

June 18, 2024

Letter from the Deans of American Law Schools

Lawyers play a critical role in sustaining our constitutional democracy. President John F. Kennedy remarked on the enduring


commitment needed to maintain such a system of government: “Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to untiring effort . . . .”

We are thus grateful to the American Bar Association Task Force for American Democracy for its efforts to protect and preserve the rule of law and the ideals of our profession. As law deans, we affirm that training for the next generation of lawyers should include these important elements:

- Teaching our students to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, which includes a duty to support our constitutional democracy and, per the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, to “further the public’s understanding of and confidence in the rule of law and the justice system.”
- Offering courses, workshops, and events that engage with the rule of law and democracy and sharing teaching resources through a new clearinghouse that the American Bar Association is creating.
- Teaching our students to disagree respectfully and to engage across partisan and ideological divides.
- Encouraging our students to support and defend the Constitution and the rule of law through clinical work, public education, and advocacy.
- Supporting public education and events focused on the rule of law and the values of our constitutional democracy.

We call upon all members of the legal profession to join us in the vital work ahead.

Source: https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/news/2024/deans-letter-061824.pdf.

The statement appears to be a reaction to the general polarized discourse in the larger society and polity as well as campus incidents.

Blog Archive

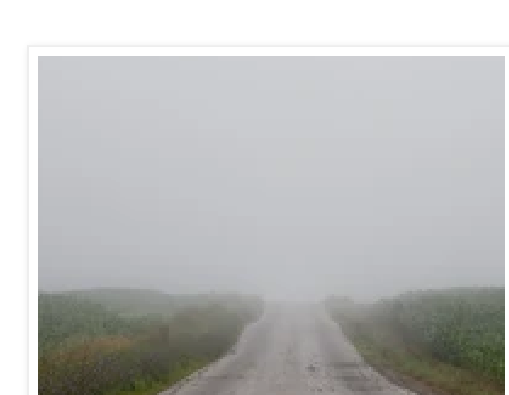


Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:  

Labels: UC, UCLA

Sunday, June 23, 2024

Unclear Budget Deal for UC

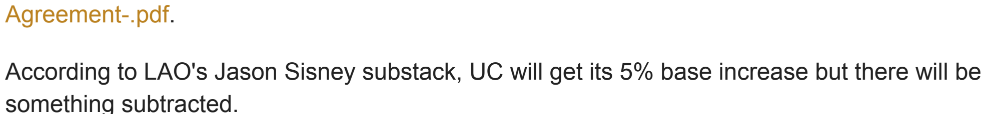


You may have seen news articles about a budget deal reached between Gov. Newsom and legislative Democrats. We'll look at the macro side of the deal in a later post. But what about UC's piece of the budget?

In a news release from the governor we find this statement:

UC/CSU Compact Deferral—Defers $524 million from 2025-26 to 2026-27 and from 2026-27 to 2027-28

Full release at https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-Budget-Agreement-.pdf.



According to LAO's Jason Sisney substack, UC will get its 5% base increase but there will be something subtracted.

Here are some obvious points:

1) The year we are concerned about is 2024-25, which starts July 1. There is no information from the governor about that year.* The Sisney account gives no figure on the cut.

2) Statements about 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 are essentially meaningless. What happens in those outyears will depend on future legislatures.

3) This is not a "compact deferral." The whole purpose of the compact was to provide predictable multiyear funding with no *ad hoc* adjustment. Changing the compact on an *ad hoc* basis, which is what happened, essentially means there is no compact in any meaningful sense of that concept.

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It might be noted that there is language in the news release about cutbacks in the Middle Class Scholarship Program.

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Contributors

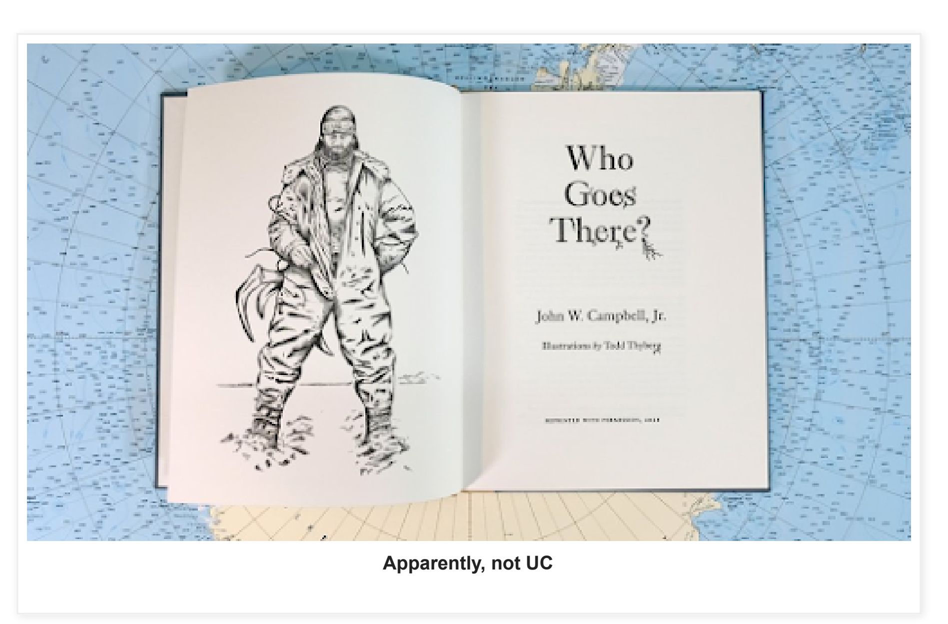
- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

*The trailer bill for higher ed mainly deals with the community colleges including some UC projects with community colleges. https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB155/2023.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 10:16 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, LAO, legislature, politics, State Budget, UC budget crisis

UC is not going there



Apparently, not UC

From the San Francisco Chronicle: *The University of California gave San Francisco disappointing news this week: It will not open a campus in the city's flagging downtown. A new school would be too expensive, UC said. "Given the outlook for state appropriations and the financial capacity of our campuses, the university is not considering establishing any new campuses or other new facilities in the City of San Francisco at this time," Ryan King, a UC spokesperson, told the Chronicle this week.*

Mayor London Breed wrote to the UC regents last July inviting them to open a campus downtown. Touting the opportunities for students in San Francisco, Breed also dangled the availability of many properties to choose from and noted that the city has a "distinctive talent pool," a "storied history of successful innovation" and plenty of artificial intelligence chops. For the past year, both sides have said only that they were "in talks." This week, UC ended the speculation...

Full story at https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/uc-downtown-campus-breed-19529199.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:  

Labels: politics, UC

Felony ==> Misdemeanor



The news release below refers to the one person, a Beverly Hills High School senior, arrested for attacking the encampment on the Quad. The arrest was originally on a felony charge, now changed to a misdemeanor:

June 21, 2024: UCLA Demonstration Case Referred to LA City Attorney's Office for Misdemeanor Filing Consideration

Media Relations Division, LA District Attorney

Case against Edan On, a counter-protestor at a pro-Palestinian demonstration at UCLA, referred to LA City Attorney's Office for misdemeanor consideration

WEST LOS ANGELES, CA - Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced today that Edan On, 18, a counter-protestor at a pro-Palestinian demonstration at UCLA on April 30, has been referred to the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office for misdemeanor filing consideration.

"Our office has completed a thorough review of the incident involving Mr. Edan On who allegedly assaulted another protestor," District Attorney Gascón said. "We cannot establish beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. On's conduct directly caused the victim's injury. There is no evidence to suggest that Mr. On was working in collaboration with any other individuals; and our investigation found no proof of conspiracy or any organized effort by Mr. On related to the incident.

"Given these factors, we believe that the appropriate course of action is to refer the matter to the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, which will consider misdemeanor filing. This referral aligns with our commitment to applying the law fairly and ensuring that justice is served based on the available evidence."

On April 30, at approx. 11:30 p.m., counter-protestors began dismantling a barricade surrounding a pro-Palestinian encampment. Clashes between the two groups escalated into violence. The victim arrived at the encampment at UCLA Royce Quad around the same time to support the pro-Palestinian encampment.

Edan On allegedly assaulted the victim between 12:30 to 1:30 a.m. during the clash between the protestors.

Aside from the known victim, no other victim or witness has reported a crime involving On to law enforcement.

One other matter involving the UCLA demonstration has been presented to the office and is currently under review.

The case is being investigated by the University of California Los Angeles Police Department.

Source: https://da.lacounty.gov/media/news/ucla-demonstration-case-referred-la-city-attorney-s-office-misdemeanor-filing.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:  

Labels: UCLA

Some Pauses Are Not Refreshing

UCOP has proposed a change in APM-016 dealing with faculty discipline procedures to allow a chancellor or chancellor's delegate to impose a "pause" on an academic advancement case (promotion, merit) in situations where faculty misconduct has been alleged. The pause apparently could be imposed before there has been any formal hearing or procedure to determine the validity of the alleged conduct.



Maybe not every job

It is unclear what incident(s) may have led to this proposal. There appears to be no definition of how serious the alleged misconduct has to be nor whether there is to be any standard for judging the credibility of the allegation.* At some point, if the pause were found to be unwarranted, the academic advancement case would proceed retroactively.

Not surprisingly, there has been concern and opposition expressed to this proposal by faculty at UCLA and other campuses due to the lack of recourse for affected faculty. There is some indication that such pauses may have been occurring on an *ad hoc* basis, even in the absence of a formal process, and thus another view is that there should be formal guidelines. But even in that view, the issue of definition in the current proposal remains.

Well over 200 ladder faculty have signed a letter to UCOP objecting to the proposal as it now stands:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewFbgVmKssQoEapf-Nf8h-KzrI_CSt8WEPAg1O_1DgCyXNEA/viewform.

The University Committee on Privilege and Tenure did not oppose having pauses but recommended variious amendments to the proposal:

https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/sc-kn-request-for-apm-language-to-address-simultaneous.pdf.

Again, yours truly wonders if some embarrasing case or situation developed somewhere in the UC system that has triggered this development. Back in 2011, then-Governor Jerry Brown vetoed a bill that would have fined parents $25 for letting their kids ski without a helmet saying "not every problem deserves a law."** One wonders whether every situation that develops at UC, even if it is embarrassing, needs an amendment to the APM.

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*https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/underreview/apm-016-senate-review-2024.pdf.

**https://www.mercurynews.com/2011/09/08/jerry-browns-veto-messages-not-every-problem-deserves-a-law/. It's worth noting that the author of the proposed helmet law, state senator Leland Yee, later went to prison for something far more serious. Yee was no particular friend to UC when he was in office. But, then again, neither was Jerry Brown.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:  

Labels: academic freedom, UCOP

Saturday, June 22, 2024

Interim EVP



June 21, 2024

Michael S. Levine to Serve as Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Chancellor Block shared this message to the Bruin Community.

Dear Bruin Community:

As was announced last week, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Darnell Hunt — a dedicated campus leader for more than two decades — will serve as UCLA's interim chancellor from August 1, 2024 until Jan. 1, 2025, at which point Julio Frenk will take office as our next chancellor.

While EVCP Hunt is serving as interim chancellor, I am pleased to share that current Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Personnel Michael S. Levine will step in as interim EVCP.

A seasoned administrator and member of the faculty since 1976, Vice Chancellor Levine has been in his role since 2016. He currently oversees the Office of Academic Affairs and Personnel, which is primarily responsible for approving all major faculty promotions and advancements as well as creating programs for faculty development. He has twice previously served as interim EVCP, from July to September 2019 and from October 2021 to September 2022.

Vice Chancellor Levine is also a distinguished professor in the David Geffen School of Medicine and previously held the Gail Patrick Endowed Chair in Brain Research. His research focuses on the neurophysiological mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative disorders. Among his many honors and awards, he is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and he received the Distinguished Investigator Award from the National Association for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression.

Distinguished Professor Kathleen L. Komar, currently special assistant to the vice chancellor for academic affairs and personnel, will take on Vice Chancellor Levine's responsibilities as interim vice provost for academic affairs and personnel during this time. Professor Komar is an experienced campus leader with deep knowledge of academic personnel matters and previously served in this interim capacity from October 2021 to September 2022. She has also served as chair of the Academic Senate and chair of the Council on Academic Personnel.

As I near the end of my 17 years as chancellor, I am grateful to each of these leaders for their deep commitment to UCLA over several decades, and for stepping into these interim roles. I am confident they will provide continuity and effective oversight during this period of transition. I also extend my gratitude to the entire Bruin community for your continued dedication to advancing our mission of teaching, research and service.

Sincerely,

Gene D. Block

Chancellor

News release at https://chancellor.ucla.edu/messages/michael-s-levine-to-serve-as-interim-executive-vice-chancellor-and-provost/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:  

Labels: UCLA

Stanford's Two Reports Are Here Now; One of UCLA's is Just Getting Started

Like UCLA, Stanford set up a committee to report on the outbreak of antisemitism on campus since October 7 and another on Islamophobia. The latter for UCLA was released by faculty involved in its preparation.** Unlike UCLA, Stanford now has its antisemitism report and*



Islamophobia report whereas UCLA's report on the former topic still seems to be in the early stages of development. That's odd when you consider that UCLA and Columbia were the focus of the nation's attention for particularly bad outcomes and incidents, more so than Stanford. Stanford, in short, has produced and released both. UCLA is still missing one.

Nonetheless, UCLA in preparing its missing report can now at least benefit from seeing what such a report looks like. Below we present the Executive Summary to Stanford's antisemitism report and a link to the full text. We also present excerpts from a NY Times item on the two Stanford reports and the Executive Summary and a link to Stanford's Islamophobia report:

"It's in the Air": Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias at Stanford, and How to Address It

A REPORT FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTISEMITISM AND ANTI-ISRAELI BIAS OF THE JEWISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

May 31, 2024 [Published June 20, 2024]

Executive Summary

This Report presents the findings and recommendations of a Subcommittee of twelve members (six Stanford faculty, three staff, two students, and one alumnus) appointed by President Richard Saller in the late fall of 2023 to consider how Stanford could "educate the community and take measures designed to reduce, eliminate, and respond to antisemitism," while also fostering dialogue with the Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian communities and working "to build a more cohesive community" at Stanford. To respond to President Saller's charge, we first had to assess the nature and extent of antisemitism on campus, against the backdrop of a national surge in antisemitism following the horrific terrorist attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023. We also found it necessary, with his approval, to expand the scope of our investigation to assess the closely related form of bias against Israelis as a nationality group.

While our work focused on the specific issues and challenges confronting Jewish and Israeli members of the Stanford community, the concern "to build a more cohesive community" across Stanford was never far from our minds. And we came to conclude that the best way for Stanford to respond to antisemitism and anti-Israeli bias is for it to re-commit to core university principles that should be promoted and defended equally for all groups, irrespective of race, religion, nationality, or other forms of identity.

We rejected the idea that "safety" requires "protecting" students from views that might make them uncomfortable. Universities exist to consider contending perspectives and subject them to rational debate and critical inquiry. Our goal is for community members to be safe from injury or

the threat of it. Acts of bigotry—hatred or intolerance based on a person's ethnicity, religion, or other identity—violate the standards of safety students have a right to expect and universities have an obligation to afford.

To assess the nature and extent of the problem, during the first three months of 2024 we conducted more than 50 different listening sessions for undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents. More than 300 Stanford-connected people attended these sessions. We also conducted nearly four dozen individual interviews with members of these constituencies and senior and mid-level administrative officials at Stanford (including deans and vice-provosts). All our listening sessions and interviews were conducted on a not-for-attribution basis to enable people to express themselves candidly.

We did not attempt to offer a single definition of antisemitism or its relationship to antiZionism. However, we noted that different definitional efforts agree on a wide range of narratives and behaviors that are characteristic of this form of bias, such as demonizing or dehumanizing Jews through false and malicious tropes and stereotypes about their imagined influence, power, wealth, rituals, or hidden loyalties. Whether one equates anti-Zionism with antisemitism by definition, these two biases are in fact closely intertwined.

What We Found

After many months examining the social climate in the undergraduate and graduate levels and in diverse schools, programs, departments, residences, workplaces, and physical spaces at Stanford University, our Subcommittee reached this unanimous conclusion: antisemitism exists today on the Stanford campus in ways that are widespread and pernicious. Some of this bias is expressed in overt and occasionally shocking ways, but often it is wrapped in layers of subtlety and implication, one or two steps away from blatant hate speech. Antisemitism and bias against Israelis as a nationality group are not uniformly distributed across campus. We found schools, departments, dorms, and programs that seem largely unaffected, where Jewish students, faculty, and staff did not report issues with bias, harassment, intimidation, or ostracism. But a few portions of the campus appear to have very serious problems that have deeply affected Jewish and Israeli students. The most succinct summary of what we found is in our title, "It's in the air."

We learned of instances where antisemitism and anti-Israeli bias reached a level of social injury that deeply affected people's lives: students moving out of their dorms because of antisemitic acts or speech; students being ostracized, canceled, or intimidated for openly identifying as Jewish, or for simply being Israeli, or expressing support for Israel, or even for refusing to explicitly condemn Israel; students fearing to display Jewish symbols or reveal that they were Jewish for fear of losing friendships or group acceptance.

Some of the examples we heard did not involve singular actions or expressions but a pattern of bias and intimidation that needs to be energetically addressed.. Students also complained of being "tokenized," viewed as "a representative of the Jewish people all the time." Graduate students also complained of "a lack of any mechanism to support us," a fear of retaliation if they reported what they were experiencing, and a lack of confidence that anything would be improved if they did report.

We were struck by the fact that many of the Jewish and Israeli students who were subjected to these patterns of intimidation were well to the left of center in relation to the Israeli political spectrum. They were critical of the current government and many of its policies and actions. The hostility directed toward them appeared to have little or nothing to do with their political views but rather with their Jewish or Israeli identities—or at least with their unwillingness to qualify or reject those identities through abject apology for having any connection, however ancestral, to the State of Israel. The imposition of a unique social burden on Jewish students to openly denounce Israel and renounce any ties to it was, we found, the most common manifestation of antisemitism in student life.

It was not only students who felt unsafe. A few faculty and staff members told us that they had begun to feel physically unsafe for the first time in their many years or decades at Stanford.

More often, Jewish students (and some faculty and staff) felt isolated and abandoned, with no clear expression of support from the University (or from their school or program) for the pain and trauma they were feeling after the October 7 attacks, or for the intimidation and hostility they encountered in their programs or residences.

Beyond the widely reported incident of antisemitism in a freshman COLLEGE class, which we describe at some length in this Report, we learned of other instances of antisemitism or antiIsraeli bias in the classroom, and incidents where teaching assistants abused their positions and class communication networks to proselytize for their personal views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or to urge students to attend protest rallies or demonstrations.

No venue has provided a wider and more uninhibited berth for the expression of hostility toward Jews and Israelis than social media. Jewish and Israeli students frequently reported being denounced or canceled for dissenting from the prevailing orthodoxy of virulent condemnation of Israel. Students (not only Jewish or Israeli) also spoke of pressure to post material that demonstrated agreement with the prevailing anti-Israel political orthodoxy. Most troubling is the social media platform, Fizz, where all posts are strictly anonymous. We were presented with countless examples of Fizz posts that appeared antisemitic in tone and intent, blaming “you guys” for the violence in Gaza, suggesting a Jewish student cabal behind the candidacy of a Jewish student for the ASSU Senate, and urging that a Jewish student who had written a national magazine article about the antisemitic climate on campus be waterboarded with gasoline and lit on fire.

Among the most troubling realms we learned about were the student residences. Some Jewish students reported intimidation or vandalism in their residences that appeared to be directed at them as Jews, including instances of mezuzahs (mezuzot) being ripped from door frames, a swastika being drawn on a Jewish student’s door, and scrawls and graffiti directed at Jewish students in a way that was meant to harass and intimidate them.

Given the importance and influence of the role, we were troubled by reports of Resident Assistants (RAs) failing in their obligation to foster a safe and respectful environment and to lead with integrity, either for their own reasons or due to insufficient training. In some instances, RAs posted antisemitic or threatening content on social media, for example, that Jews don’t need protection because antisemitism isn’t real. In others, they abused their role to advance

divisive political agendas that left their Jewish residents feeling that they could not trust or approach them.

Many students—as well as faculty, staff, alumni, and parents—were distressed by the growing signs of antisemitism and anti-Israeli bias in protests, demonstrations, and encampments in the University's public spaces. We recognize the importance of preserving these spaces as free speech zones where even the most vehement criticism of Israel, as well as strident calls for changes in US or University policy, enjoy a constitutional right to expression. But the encampments and other protests have, at times, gone beyond these lines of argument and advocacy to call, implicitly or even explicitly, for violence, as in "Death 2 Settler Colonial Projects," "Long Live Palestine, Die Israel," and occasional expressions of support for terrorist organizations. The White Plaza protests have also featured versions of the infamous antisemitic blood libel that Jews were drinking the blood of non-Jewish children—in this case the baseless and outrageous allegations that Israel was harvesting the organs or skin of Palestinians. The current encampment also hosted a speech by an imam who is nationally known for his antisemitism and calls for violence. We also heard frequent concern about the presence at these various protests of external actors, who bring their own agendas and who are not subject to university discipline.

Some faculty shared incidents or climates of antisemitism or anti-Israeli bias in their departments or schools. More often, however, faculty complained of the general atmosphere of antisemitic and anti-Israeli sentiment on campus and the failure of the university to condemn blatant expressions of it. Faculty felt particularly shocked and appalled (as did many students) by certain signs and statements on campus justifying and celebrating the terrorist violence on October 7.

Many faculty condemned the disruptions of classes, university events, and the academic working environment. Independent of their specific concerns about the proliferation of antisemitic and anti-Israeli tropes and narratives, faculty expressed distress about the climate of extreme polarization and personal invective in expression related to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and the paucity of opportunities to cultivate civil discourse and rational, informed debate.

By contrast, we found that faculty in the Graduate School of Business, the School of Engineering, and the Doerr School of Sustainability felt positively about the climates there or at least did not report any issues.

The staff we interviewed echoed many of the same themes we heard from students and faculty. They lamented the polarization, the lack of mutual respect, the ignorance about Jews. They spoke of feeling isolated, "unsafe and unsupported." This has affected their performance at work and has led them to want to avoid campus and work remotely as much as possible.

We heard many complaints about the University's programmatic commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. What upset people was not the goals of DEI but the exclusion of Jews and Israelis, who (our study makes clear) confront bias and harassment on campus that should be addressed by campus DEI programs, if they exist at all. The clear and consistent appeal from our listening sessions was for equal recognition and treatment.

Another recurrent theme in our listening sessions and interviews was the failure of the University to respond to complaints of bias adequately, or expeditiously, or at all. Examples include antisemitic vandalism and mezuzah desecrations that were barely investigated in some instances and for which accountability was never established. Some said requests to assess antisemitism on campus and reform policies to reflect it have been basically ignored. We heard many complaints about lack of follow-up after students filed reports through the Protect Identity Harm (PIH) system. And there was widespread skepticism about the capacity of the Office of Community Standards to hold students accountable for violations of rules that contribute to a hostile environment for Jewish and Israeli students, faculty, and staff.

Nearly 100 alumni and parents participated in our listening sessions. They expressed acute concern for the physical safety of Jewish students and for their emotional wellbeing in the face of numerous threats and forms of antisemitic bias and harassment. Some shared stories we had not otherwise heard. Many parents and alumni were deeply distressed and disheartened that their children and other Jewish Stanford students feel the need to hide their views or their identity, feel unsafe or unwelcome in their dorms or other campus spaces, and confront a degraded climate for discourse on campus, lacking in civility, rationality, and mutual respect. They were also the most vocal of all constituencies in calling for the University to enforce its own rules with respect to protests and encampments.

The core problem, we concluded, is not simply the failure to punish rule violations in a concrete way. It is the broader deterioration of norms that once stigmatized antisemitism. The trend in recent years, but especially since October 7, has been a normalization of antisemitic and antiIsraeli speech on campus, and an “impression of indifference” on the part of the University—or at least many actors within it—to antisemitism and anti-Israeli bias.

What We Conclude and Recommend

To address antisemitism and anti-Israeli bias—or for that matter, other forms of prejudice—we must address the broader campus culture.

Doing this requires Stanford to re-commit to six principles that are foundational to a healthy, thriving university community: safety, free expression, tolerance and pluralism, equality, accountability, and education. Stanford must work comprehensively, energetically, and imaginatively to generate a campus culture where all members of the community are: 1) physically secure; 2) free to express their opinions and beliefs; 3) tolerated and respected for their beliefs, even when such beliefs diverge strongly from those held by others; 4) equally treated and protected; 5) accountable for their speech and behavior; and (6) engaged in a process of education about complex and difficult issues that is characterized by rigorous inquiry based on facts and reason without devolving into personal animus, particularly that which is based on intolerance.

Safety

• We recommend that the PIH system be revised to provide more appropriate feedback to those who initiate complaints and more transparency to the university community. We welcome the

Provost's appointment of a committee, chaired by Professor Diego Zambrano, to consider changes in the PIH system.

• The student residences should offer a safe, welcoming, and inclusive second "home" for students. They should refrain from imposing any political orthodoxy or tolerating the projection of any identity bias that leaves any dorm residents feeling marginalized and unsafe.

• Student mental health should be a priority. The Vaden Health Center should ensure that it has adequate staff (in number and training) to respond to the psychological manifestations of injury and stress due to antisemitism and anti-Israeli bias • We urge the University to carefully review its policies and practices concerning the presence of non-Stanford-affiliated individuals at campus protests (and particularly, protracted encampments) and to evaluate whether it has adequate resources for verifying people's connection to the campus and removing visitors who violate its rules.

Free Expression

• We support freedom of speech and respect the protections for it under the First Amendment and California's Leonard Law. However, this protection does not extend to hate speech that calls for specific violence against individuals or classes of people, or to speech that disrupts classes, public events, or essential university business. Such speech can and should be sanctioned. Time, place, and manner restrictions banning audible demonstrations and political banners from the Quad and from the vicinity of other academic buildings should be strictly enforced.

• In addition to more clarity around sanctions and when they will be consistently imposed, University leaders should exercise their own free speech rights to call out and condemn antisemitic and anti-Israeli speech on campus.

Tolerance and Pluralism

• We recommend that the University work more energetically and consistently to promote norms of tolerance for different views and identities and respect for social, intellectual, and political pluralism.

• Stanford must work harder to create a culture where disagreement can be expressed without devolving into personal animus, political intolerance, or social exclusion. This requires comprehensive efforts to promote the norms and skills of mutual respect, tolerance, and civility, with a pedagogical emphasis on the method of critical inquiry. We identify several efforts now underway at Stanford to promote critical inquiry, evidence-based debate, and a civil climate for discourse. In addition to the COLLEGE curriculum, these include the Stanford Civics Initiative, the Intercollegiate Civil Disagreement Fellowship, and the Spring Quarter course on Democracy and Disagreement.

• We recommend adding a comprehensive program to begin developing in all incoming members of the freshman class the norms and skills of critical, mutually respectful discourse. And we also urge that Stanford continue and enhance messaging to newly admitted undergraduates about the kind of academic culture we seek and uphold.

• Stanford should also address the challenge of toxic social media. It could perform a national service by engaging the leadership of Fizz to strengthen content moderation and the reporting system for violations.

Equality

• In the short term, we recommend that Jews and Israelis be added to the panoply of identities recognized by DEI programs so that the harms they are enduring are treated with the same concern as those of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ members of the community.

• In the longer-term, however, we make a different recommendation. We believe this identity driven approach to belonging and inclusion is anathema to the University's educational mission, and that it ultimately works to the detriment of the very groups it seeks to aid. We propose moving from DEI programs as presently constituted to a pluralist framework that benefits individuals from all backgrounds, including Jews and Israelis, who are not currently protected, and indeed are disadvantaged, by DEI. We believe the best approach lies in Harvard Professor Danielle Allen's call for "a framework of confident pluralism—inclusion and belonging, academic freedom, and mutual respect." The goal should be to produce authentic understanding of differences without uniformity of thought.

Accountability

• Stanford must have the ability to enforce its rules and norms, provided that they do not inappropriately thwart political discourse. Stanford should not rely solely on external law enforcement action or criminal referrals to hold its students accountable for actions that violate its rules. It must be able to rely upon its own system of compliance and enforcement.

• An independent evaluation should be conducted of the Office of Community Standards to assess whether and to what extent it has proved able to impose accountability for student violations regarding the time, place, and manner of speech, and for other rules violations that propagate antisemitism, anti-Israeli bias, Islamophobia, and other forms of bigotry unprotected by the First Amendment.

• The University should also ensure that it can be held accountable for its success or failure in honoring its commitments. Beyond periodic and comprehensive release of data on all incidents of antisemitic and anti-Israeli bias, Stanford should establish baselines and measure progress for addressing antisemitism and other forms of non-race-based hate and bias that are not now measured. It should commit to annual reporting and review of this progress.

• We also recommend identifying a senior administrator who is empowered to pursue this work across the university, is accountable to the President or Provost, and makes public reports on their progress at regular and predictable intervals both to the President or Provost and to the Board of Trustees.

Education

• The University should incorporate into its existing educational programs for faculty and staff (including resident fellows and residence deans), and for students in positions of authority, such

as teaching assistants and residence staff, instruction about the history and diverse forms and manifestations of antisemitism—the negative tropes, stereotypes, and misinformation.

• More broadly, the University should promote education about the culture, religion, history, and ethnic diversity of the Jewish people, and sensitivity to the consequences for Jewish community members' sense of safety, belonging, and inclusion that follow from characteristic forms of speech and action.

• Instructors and teaching assistants should avoid using the classroom (and communications and meetings related to instruction) as a vehicle for propagating their personal political views and involvements.

• Stanford should also offer pedagogical training in the methods of teaching critical inquiry and cultivating civil discourse. This should be a required part of training for graduate and postdoctoral teaching staff (especially in the COLLEGE program) and encouraged of faculty as well.

Improving and Supporting Jewish Life at Stanford

The University responded forthrightly to some of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Jewish Admissions in its September 2022 Report. But action is still needed on other issues, including more training of staff, more education about Jews and antisemitism, more provision for the religious and cultural needs of religiously observant Jewish students, and a comprehensive study of Jewish life at Stanford.

• We recommend the University appoint a standing advisory committee to advise on all these issues and monitor implementation.

• Given the importance of Hillel at Stanford in serving the social, cultural, and spiritual needs of Jewish students and the broader needs of Stanford community members interested in Jewish life, we encourage the University to recognize Hillel more explicitly as its key partner supporting Jewish life on campus, for example, by memorializing it in a Memorandum of

Understanding.

• We also recommend that Stanford consider joining Hillel International's Campus Climate Initiative, to give form and structure to our commitment to address antisemitism and antiIsraeli bias.

Conclusion

What is needed now is the institutional will to reassert, defend, and promote our core values as a university, and to do the hard work of instruction, engagement, and dialogue so that these values become not simply lofty ideals, but norms deeply embedded in the lived culture of the University. To achieve a university that is free of identity bias may seem an unrealistic goal. In striving toward that end, we will not reach perfection. But we will become a stronger, healthier university, better poised to realize our limitless possibilities for advancing knowledge while

fulfilling our founding purpose: “to promote the public welfare by exercising an influence in behalf of humanity and civilization [and] teaching the blessings of liberty regulated by law.”

The full report is at https://ia600402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report.-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/Stanford%20Antisemitism%20report%205-31-2024.pdf.

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From the NY Times:

Stanford released on Thursday dueling reports — one on antisemitism and the other on anti-Muslim bias — that revealed mirroring images of campus life in recent months that may be impossible to reconcile. One report found that antisemitism has been pervasive at the university in both overt and subtle ways, while the other stated that the school had stifled free speech among pro-Palestinian students and faculty. They were emblematic of the rift between Jewish and Muslim groups on campus, and showed that any kind of accord between the two groups and the university were distant...

The report on antisemitism — by a university subcommittee on antisemitism and anti-Israeli bias, consisting of faculty, students and an alumnus — found that acts of antisemitism have ranged from an anonymous threat on social media against a student journalist who had written about antisemitism to what students said was intimidation in the classroom and residence halls. “Antisemitism exists today on the Stanford campus in ways that are widespread and pernicious,” the group wrote in the report. “We learned of instances where antisemitism and anti-Israeli bias reached a level of social injury that deeply affected people’s lives.” ...

The other report — by Stanford’s Muslim, Arab and Palestinian communities committee — described what it called “a rupture of trust” between students, staff and faculty. “These communities have felt afraid for their safety, unseen and unheard by university leadership,” it said. According to this report, Stanford recorded more than 50 instances of Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab bias between October 2023 and May 2024, including assault, battery and theft...

The report also discussed what it called “the Palestine exception” in the university’s commitment to free speech, saying that the university had limited protests and speech by pro-Palestinian students when it came to hanging flags and signs or organizing screenings of news events...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/20/us/stanford-antisemitism-muslims-report.html.

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RUPTURE AND REPAIR: A report by the Stanford Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian Communities Committee

May 2024 [Published June 20, 2024]

Executive Summary

This report details a substantial rupture of trust between students, staff, and faculty in the Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian (MAP) communities and Stanford in academic year 2023-24. These communities have felt afraid for their safety, unseen and unheard by university leadership, and silenced through a variety of formal and informal means when they assert the rights and humanity of Palestinians. This rupture has been compounded by a longer history of Islamophobia, anti-Arab, and anti-Palestinian sentiment that stretches through and beyond Stanford.

In spring 2024, the question of Palestine remains one of the most pressing political issues of the day, both in our university and on the global stage. A core mission of Stanford is to "educate tomorrow's global citizens" by enabling students to "engage with big ideas, to cross conceptual and disciplinary boundaries, and to become global citizens who embrace diversity of thought and experience." This past year, numerous Stanford staff, faculty, and administrators have devoted significant time and effort to honoring these values despite extraordinary scrutiny from Congress, national media, alumni, and others.

Yet the findings of this committee indicate that Stanford has not lived up to this mission. The university has undermined speech, teaching, and research on Palestine. For Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian community members, Stanford's decisions have diminished their sense of equality, inclusion, and belonging on campus. These decisions have also sent a message to the whole university that Palestine is an exception to Stanford's stated mission: a topic that one cannot study, discuss, or teach without potentially damaging one's future.

In this report, we detail, based on hundreds of hours of listening sessions with students, staff, faculty, and alumni, the challenges of being a member of Muslim, Arab, and/or Palestinian communities at Stanford. In many cases, these challenges extend to students, staff, and faculty of any identity who align themselves with or engage the rights of Palestinians. We show how these challenges are linked to persistent suppression of speech on Palestine; underrepresentation of community members in conversations that matter; a scarcity of scholarly expertise in Palestinian and Arab studies; and institutional discomfort with the diversity of opinion and expertise that does exist on campus.

The report makes the following core findings:

• Students from MAP communities experienced dozens of incidents that undermined their sense of safety and belonging, including physical assaults, threats, and harassment. Although Stanford responded appropriately to some of these incidents and provided security in response to student requests, on many occasions students felt that the institutional response was insufficient given the severity and persistence of incidents.

• Speech suppression occurred through a variety of formal and informal means. In some cases, administrators explicitly targeted speech supportive of Palestine on the basis of its viewpoint in violation of the university's obligations to protect freedom of speech and principles of academic freedom. Administrators leveraged existing time, place, and manner restrictions on speech—and created new ones—to limit discourse around Palestine.

• Staff felt especially vulnerable, with little clarity regarding the scope of academic freedom and speech protections available to them and inconsistencies in the application of norms and policies.

• Stanford has not called in riot police or invited mass arrests to forcibly clear student encampments; in that respect, it is doing better than many other universities that created spectacles of punishment to placate external pressure. University leaders permitted the Sit-In to Stop Genocide to remain in White Plaza for nearly four months, enabling students to learn and teach one another in what became the longest sit-in in Stanford history. However, Stanford criminalized peaceful student protests when it facilitated the arrest of 18 students who disrupted an event during Family Weekend and who were then charged with misdemeanors.

• Students, staff, and faculty who engaged in Palestine activism feared the administration's own surveillance and its implementation of disciplinary measures, which exacerbated their sense of insecurity.

• Calls for "civil discourse" on university campuses often reflect a suspicion of student activism, a distrust of speech outside the boundaries of institutional orthodoxy, and opposition to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Stanford needs a paradigm of vibrant discourse, not civil discourse. Our proposed framework fosters skills-building for disagreement, expands and enriches university conversations, and honors students' own discourse and activism.

Stanford lacks scholarly depth in Palestinian and Arab studies. While it has made substantial progress in hiring faculty in recent years who study Islam, there are exceedingly few tenured or tenure-track faculty who focus on the Arab world. This gap not only puts Stanford behind its peer institutions in producing research and knowledge, but also leaves the university with few tenured—and therefore protected—faculty who can lead difficult conversations on Palestine.

• While Stanford has diversified its student population significantly, members of Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian communities remain scarce among faculty, staff, and institutional leadership. This lack of representation often leads to "unforced errors" in decisions that have implications for these communities.

• Stanford has done well in establishing some institutional structures—such as the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies and the Markaz Resource Center—that support MAP communities. Without these units, students, staff, and faculty would have had an even more challenging year. However, these units remain understaffed and overextended, highlighting the need for permanent and reliable financial investment.

• MAP community members consistently noted that Stanford's official communications since October 2023 were asymmetric with respect to Palestine despite the university's stated commitment to institutional neutrality and restraint. Moreover, these communications often presented lopsided coverage of this historical moment and sometimes conflated or collapsed MAP identities, such as assuming that all Palestinians are Muslim.

Stanford took an important step forward in creating this committee and was, to the best of our knowledge, the first university to do so after October 2023. In accordance with our charge, this

report aims to uplift, honor, and learn from the lived experiences and words of community members. It also highlights that, even as they feel that Stanford does not always treat them as integral to the work of the university, they see themselves as part of Stanford and are invested in the institution. With that in mind, we recommend substantial reciprocal investment from Stanford to move toward repair: in policies and decisions to protect and expand speech; in faculty to teach and research; and in structures to support and empower.

But most importantly we use this report to recommend that Stanford live up to its stated values. In theory, the university has committed to the principle that its "central functions of teaching, learning, research, and scholarship depend upon an atmosphere in which freedom of inquiry, thought, expression, publication and peaceable assembly are given the fullest protection.

Expression of the widest range of viewpoints should be encouraged, free from institutional orthodoxy and from internal or external coercion."

But when challenged by some of the most difficult moments for universities in North America, and buffeted by national political pressures, Stanford chose what one senior leader we spoke to described as a new "McCarthyism."

The Palestine exception illuminates the gap between Stanford's stated values and its actual practices. This is a moment for the university to take a hard look at who makes the policies, what values the policies are conveying to its students, faculty, and staff, where these policies are being levied inconsistently, why these policies are harming certain members of the university, and how these policies can be reimagined. We believe this will make the university better not just for MAP communities but for people across all corners of Stanford.

This report provides detailed recommendations on safety, freedom of speech, vibrant discourse, scholarship and knowledge production, representation and structural support, and communications. We provide one-year, five-year, and ten-year goals to guide the university as it implements these five core tasks:

1. Eliminate the Palestine exception to free speech and expression throughout the university.

2. Broaden opportunities for speech and engagement by revising time, place, and manner restrictions curtailing student speech and by expanding freedom of speech and academic freedom for all community members, not just tenured faculty.

3. Cultivate vibrant discourse even on controversial topics by recruiting a diversity of representation, experience, and knowledge among students, staff, and faculty. Continue to invest in structures that support this diversity.

4. Invest in new tenured faculty and units engaging Palestine and Arab Studies for the long term, and in the short term leverage existing expertise and create exchange programs to bring greater scholarship to Stanford.

5. Listen to and honor in-house expertise and community leaders when working on decisions and communications that affect the campus and its diverse communities, particularly during moments of crisis.

Full report is at https://news.stanford.edu/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/156586/MAP-final-report-2024.pdf.

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*We use "antisemitism" and "Islamophobia" as shorthand for the various topics covered in the two reports since those labels have been applied in general discourse.

**https://iric.org/ucla-report-of-task-force-on-anti-palestinian-anti-muslim-and-anti-arab-racism/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:   

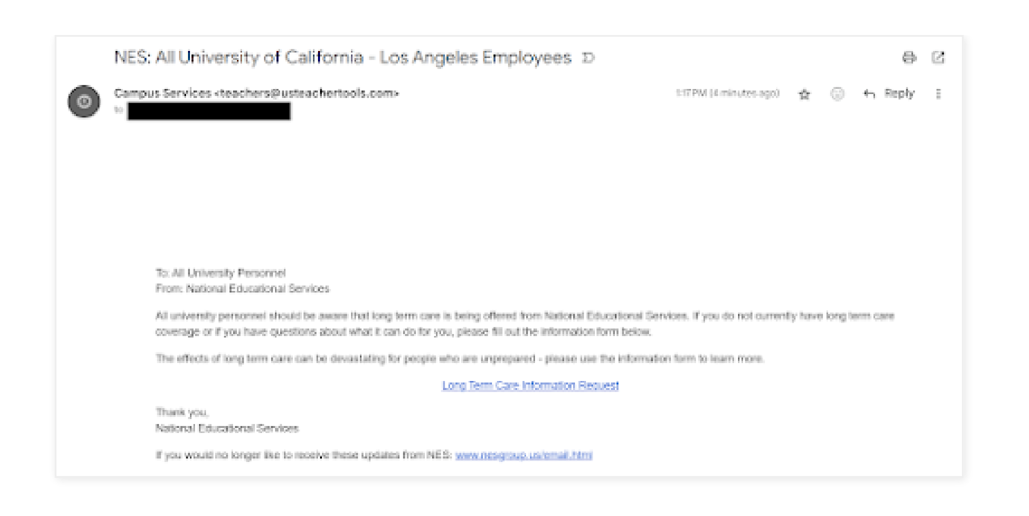
Labels: academic freedom, Columbia, diversity, Stanford, UCLA

Friday, June 21, 2024

Spam



I probably don't have to tell you that the message below offering long-term care insurance is not from an official UC or UCLA source and that it's spam. But I will anyway.


NES: All University of California - Los Angeles Employees

Campus Services <teachers@usteachertools.com>

to [redacted]

1:17 PM (4 minutes ago) Reply

To: All University Personnel
From: National Educational Services

All university personnel should be aware that long term care is being offered from National Educational Services. If you do not currently have long term care coverage or if you have questions about what it can do for you, please fill out the information form below.

The effects of long term care can be devastating for people who are unprepared - please use the information form to learn more.

Long Term Care Information Request

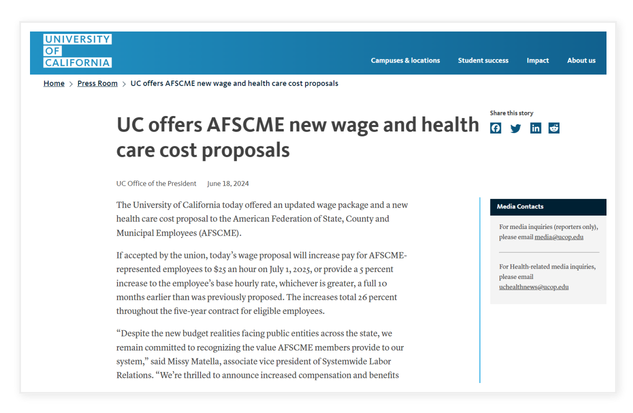
Thank you,
National Educational Services

If you would no longer like to receive these updates from NES: www.nesgroup.us/email.html

Posted by California Policy Issues at 1:29 PM No comments:

Labels: email fraud, health care, miscellaneous

UC's New Approach to Labor Relations


UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Campuses & locations | Student success | Impact | About us

Home > Press Room > UC offers AFSCME new wage and health care cost proposals

UC offers AFSCME new wage and health care cost proposals

Share this story

UC Office of the President June 18, 2024

The University of California today offered an updated wage package and a new health care cost proposal to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

If accepted by the union, today's wage proposal will increase pay for AFSCME-represented employees to $25 an hour on July 1, 2025, or provide a 5 percent increase to the employee's base hourly rate, whichever is greater, a full 10 months earlier than was previously proposed. The increases total 26 percent throughout the five-year contract for eligible employees.

"Despite the new budget realities facing public entities across the state, we remain committed to recognizing the value AFSCME members provide to our system," said Missy Matella, associate vice president of Systemwide Labor Relations. "We're thrilled to announce increased compensation and benefits

Media Contacts

For media inquiries (reporters only), please email media@ucop.edu

For Health-related media inquiries, please email uchealthnews@ucop.edu

There seems to be a new tone in UC labor relations policy that stems from the student-worker strike of late 2022. Of course, UC had been dealing with labor unions long before that strike. But in October 2022, UC brought in a new AVP for employment and labor relations - Missy Matella - who had held a similar position at the University of Oregon. If you examine news releases by UC, they are mostly announcements concerning other matters such as responses to state budget proposals, prestigious awards to faculty, etc. To the extent they touched on labor relations in the past, the releases mainly noted that contracts had been signed with this or that union.

More recently, the news releases present the university's view of specific labor relations issues as they are happening and tout contract offers by UC during ongoing negotiations, as the image accompanying this post illustrates with regard to a negotiation with AFSCME. During the recent, and now temporarily restrained UAW strike, the news releases presented the university's position at PERB and in court. In the AFSCME case, you can look at the release as an attempt to show UC generosity, i.e., good general PR, but also as an attempt to convince union

members that they are being offered a generous Good Deal. Implicit is the idea that striking for more would be unreasonable and perhaps unfruitful. Whether this approach is ultimately successful is another matter, but there seems to have been an effort by UCOP to professionalize the labor relations function, triggered by the 2022 strike. The more recent UAW strike, if anything, has reinforced that effort.

The full news release show in the illustration is at:

https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-offers-afscme-new-wage-and-health-care-cost-proposals. The release was promoted on X (Twitter):

https://x.com/UC_Newsroom/status/1803198821117178344.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:  

Labels: strikes, UC, UCOP

Thursday, June 20, 2024

UC-Davis Statement on End of Encampment



Statement From Chancellor Gary S. May on Encampment Status June 20

UC Davis News & Media Relations, June 20, 2024

UC Davis is committed to providing a campus that is inclusive and as safe as possible. At the same time, we embrace our responsibility to cultivate an environment that allows the university community to engage in work and activities in accordance with the highest standards of freedom of expression and independent thought.

This commitment has been tested in recent weeks, as students protesting the violence in Gaza set up an encampment at the Quad to call attention to the loss of life and host teach-ins and educational activities. Students remained peaceful throughout the encampment and de-escalated challenging situations.

Today, members of the Davis Popular University for the Liberation of Palestine (PULP) student-led group completed the voluntary removal of their encampment, including tents, fencing and other materials.

Since the encampment began May 6, university officials have met with encampment leaders several times to listen and engage in dialogue about the group's concerns.

The university facilitated a meeting between PULP student leaders and UC Davis Foundation trustees, who provided information about the University of California's investment principles and

processes. In another meeting, representatives of the UC Davis Academic Senate provided insight into the ways faculty research is funded and the autonomy and academic freedom of individual researchers. In another meeting, leaders from the School of Veterinary Medicine shared the history and principles underlying the school's collaboration with a similar school in Jerusalem.

We remain committed to ongoing discussions with our students, transparency in university operations, and supporting students' rights to express their viewpoints.

While we decry the loss of innocent life on both sides of this war, including in Israel, we acknowledge the efforts of our students to peacefully protest the humanitarian crisis and staggering loss of life in Gaza, the West Bank and Palestine. Protesting immense human suffering and destruction should not be conflated with hatred or intolerance.

Source: https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/statement-chancellor-encampment-status-June-20

The events of the last several months have put a strain on our campus community. However, as we reach this moment, we are grateful to all who have worked hard to maintain a campus where members of our community can peacefully express themselves. We redouble our commitment to providing a safe environment for all, protecting peaceful free expression, and assuring that our mission of teaching, research and public service continues without disruption.

Signed,

Gary S. May

Chancellor

Source: https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/statement-chancellor-encampment-status-June-20.

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A related article is at:

https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article289379192.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 10:20 AM No comments:

Labels: UC-Davis

It's officially summer





Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wrgdr3ROzTc.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:30 AM No comments:  

Labels: miscellaneous

Opposition



Yesterday, we noted two letters from the systemwide Academic Senate that seemed to focus on possible impinging of collective bargaining for student-workers and the role of faculty in supervising graduate students.

The Senate also seems concerned about labor relations legislation impinging on that role and is opposing a proposed state constitutional amendment that would extend general labor relations standards to UC employees.

See the letter below including the **bold face** elements:

June 5, 2024

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear

Chair, Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee

1020 N Street, Room 533

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Constitutional Amendment 6 (Haney) Scheduled for hearing in the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee, June 11, 2024

Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair Blakespear:

Writing on behalf on the systemwide Academic Senate of the University of California (UC), we respectfully oppose Assembly Constitutional Amendment 6 (ACA 6). While the proposed legislation is well-intentioned and aims to extend certain labor protections to UC employees, it raises several serious concerns from the faculty perspective. In their opposition letter, the UC Office of the President has clarified why most of the proposed protections are redundant and how the missions of the University are compromised by aspects of the amendment. We too are

deeply concerned about a constitutional amendment that would set a precedent that runs counter to UC's autonomy and would also hold the University to a different standard than other higher education institutions in the state. As chair of the UC Academic Senate, **I highlight those aspects that will have deleterious effects on faculty, students, and other members of our academic community who receive training and mentoring from faculty.**

UC faculty have several interrelated missions: instruction, research and creative endeavors, and public service. The framework specifically developed for state employees that would be imposed on all UC employees, including faculty, under the proposed amendment is ill-suited to the unique type of work that faculty do and how they dynamically balance these missions. The instructional calendar includes ebbs and flows of intensity not only throughout the year but within a given academic term. Research and creative activity follow their own and various patterns, whether undertaking field or archival work, directing or participating in a performance, conducting an experiment overnight, undertaking time-intensive research while on sabbatical, and so forth. **This lack of suitable fit is also largely true for our graduate trainees, especially those who hold teaching assistantships and research appointments and who must simultaneously, in their primary role as students, have sufficient flexibility to manage their academic progress.**

The proposed legislation also puts at risk the faculty's ability to carry out important research collaborations. For example, many faculty research projects involve co-primary investigators and subcontractors with other institutions, both in and out of state. If a state-wide review of such collaborations and contracts were necessary, this would severely impair the efficiency and competitive position of the UC research enterprise. It should be noted that unfettered collaboration is critical to the success of our multilocation UC-managed National Laboratories.

Under ACA 6, UC faculty and student trainees would lose the necessary flexibility to efficiently and appropriately allocate our work time and to effectively manage our research endeavors. This, in turn, will have a negative impact on the University's research productivity and teaching excellence. The proposed legislation, impairing how faculty organize their own time and labor, would strike at the heart of UC's missions and at the entire faculty's academic freedom insofar as it will impede our ability to deliver our best work in service to the state.

Sincerely,

James Steintrager, Chair

Academic Council

Source: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/aca-6-oppose-20240605.pdf.

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Note: ACA 6 reads as follows:

WHEREAS, California did not have basic state labor standards in place when Section 9 of Article IX of the California Constitution (hereafter "Article IX") was amended in 1879 to constitute the University of California as a public trust; and

WHEREAS, Despite the California Supreme Court previously holding in San Francisco Labor Council v. Regents of the University of California (1980) (26 Cal.3d 785, 789-790) that "it is well settled that general police power regulations governing private persons and corporations may be applied to the university" and that state legislation "may be made applicable to the University when the legislation regulates matters of statewide concern," and despite the fact that the Legislature has adopted such laws, the University of California has continually taken the position that Article IX excludes hundreds of thousands of Californians who work or perform work for the University of California from basic state labor standards that apply to all other California employers; and

WHEREAS, Some intermediate California courts have held that Article IX excludes Californians who work or perform work for the University of California from some basic state labor standards that apply to all other California employers; and

WHEREAS, Every California worker should have the same basic state labor standards, including equal pay standards, payment of a minimum wage, overtime pay, timely payment of wages, payment of a prevailing wage, and restrictions on outsourcing of jobs; and

WHEREAS, The outdated nearly 150-year-old exclusion of basic state labor standards for Californians who work or perform work for the University of California can be changed only by amending Article IX by a vote of the People of California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California at its 2023–24 Regular Session commencing on the fifth day of December 2022, two-thirds of the membership of each house concurring, hereby proposes to the people of the State of California, that the Constitution of the State be amended as follows:

First— This measure shall be known, and may be cited, as the Basic Labor Standards at the University of California Act.

Second— That subdivision (h) is added to Section 9 of Article IX thereto, to read:

(h) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) and unless otherwise provided by a state law, employees of the Regents of the University of California shall have the right to, and shall be covered by, the following basic state labor standards as they apply to employees of the state on or after January 1, 2025:

(A) Equal pay standards, including those established pursuant to the California Equal Pay Act and California Fair Pay Act of 2015.

(B) The payment of a minimum wage.

(C) The timely payment of wages.

(D) The payment of overtime and standards governing the hours of work.

(E) Occupational safety and health standards.

(F) Meal and rest breaks.

(G) Paid leave, including paid sick leave.

(H) Standards against displacement and contracting out of work as provided for in state laws governing the nonemergency use of personal service contracts by the state.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) and unless otherwise provided by a state law, individuals who perform work for the Regents of the University of California shall have the right to the payment of a prevailing wage for work paid for, in part or in whole, whole or in part, out of University of California funds, if that work would be considered public works under prevailing wage laws applicable to the state on or after January 1, 2025.

(3) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the Legislature may enact laws to further the rights established by this subdivision, to establish, define, or specify basic state labor standards applicable to the Regents of the University of California, or to establish other health, safety, and labor protections for individuals performing work for the Regents of the University of California.

(4) This subdivision shall not apply to a contract entered into before January 1, 2025, if compliance with this subdivision would impair the obligations of that contract.

(5) This subdivision shall not preclude the state labor standards and protections identified in this subdivision from being superseded by more favorable terms in a collective bargaining agreement.

Source: https://legiscan.com/CA/text/ACA6/id/2839200.

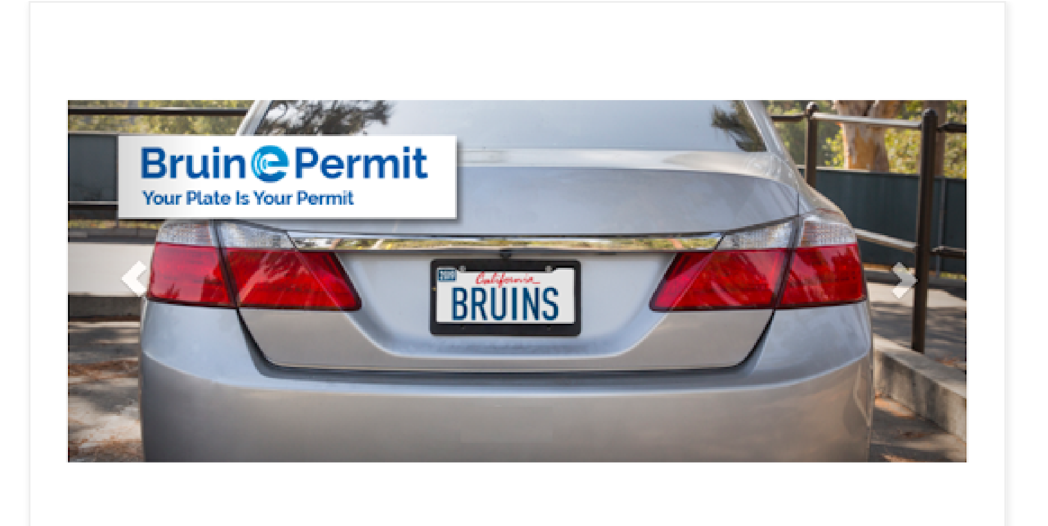
Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM   No comments:

Labels: legislature, politics, UC

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Parking Renewal





UCLA emeriti are reminded to renew their permits by July 1. Go to:

https://bruinepermit.t2hosted.com/Account/Portal. Follow the instructions there.

Clarification



Yours truly came across the two letters below on the systemwide Academic Senate website. He may be reading between the lines but what is said to be a clarification of the faculty's role relative to graduate students seems based on an expectation that in upcoming negotiations with the union representing student-workers, there will be some kind of impinging on that role. See the phrase in **bold face** below:

June 13, 2024

KATHERINE S. NEWMAN

PROVOST & EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Re: Statement on Faculty Responsibility

Dear Provost Newman,



At its May 22, 2024 meeting, the Academic Council endorsed the attached statement from the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA). The statement addresses the role and responsibilities of faculty in guiding graduate students and assessing their academic progress.

This statement has been reviewed by UC Legal and the Office of Academic Personnel and Programs. ***We believe it will serve as a valuable resource in the upcoming negotiations with academic employees, helping to clarify and reaffirm the central role of faculty in graduate education.***

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James Steintrager, Chair

Academic Council

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COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)

ACADEMIC SENATE

June 6, 2024

ACADEMIC SENATE CHAIR JAMES STEINTRAGER

Dear Chair Steintrager,

This spring, CCGA has worked to develop a statement that concisely defines the role and responsibilities of faculty with regard to graduate students. That statement is as follows:

The Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) prepared this statement of intent and principles to help clarify the roles and responsibilities of faculty in guiding graduate students and assessing academic progress.

The fundamental commitment to education is the basis for the faculty's purview over academic programs, policies, and standards. UC faculty authority for oversight and assessment of academic progress is infrangible and applies whether or not a graduate student is supported with a fellowship; whether or not a graduate student is employed as a researcher, teaching assistant, or in any other capacity; and/or whether or not a graduate student is enrolled in a traditional or independent study course. UC faculty oversee and have plenary authority over all graduate programs, degrees, and courses, and are responsible for setting disciplinary and interdisciplinary standards and assessing the academic progress of students they advise. Mentoring, collaboration, and creative discovery may occur through a wide variety of activities and methods, on the basis of both formal and informal interactions. These activities and assessments are intended to benefit graduate students, in their pursuit of advanced degrees, by helping to assure that students remain on track and on schedule, have clear goals and expectations, and establish themselves as experts and leaders in their chosen fields.

CCGA respectfully requests that Council hold an email vote to endorse this statement so that it can be forwarded to the Provost and campuses as soon as possible.

Thank you. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dean J. Tantillo

Chair, CCGA

Source: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/js-kn-statement-on-faculty-responsibility.pdf.

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It would be nice to know more about what triggered these letters.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:

Labels: UC

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Stick to the No-Fly Zone

Yours truly gets regular text messages informing him of postal packages said to have gone astray. You may receive similar messages. If you do, remain in the no-fly zone and do not respond. Instead, delete.

The Spider and the Fly (1829)

"Will you walk into my parlour?" said the Spider to the Fly,

"'Tis the prettiest little parlour that ever you did spy;

The way into my parlour is up a winding stair,

And I have many curious things to shew when you are there."

"Oh no, no," said the little Fly, "to ask me is in vain,

For who goes up your winding stair can ne'er come down again."

"I'm sure you must be weary, dear, with soaring up so high;



Will you rest upon my little bed?" said the Spider to the Fly.

"There are pretty curtains drawn around; the sheets are fine and thin,

And if you like to rest awhile, I'll snugly tuck you in!"

"Oh no, no," said the little Fly, "for I've often heard it said,

They never, never wake again, who sleep upon your bed!"

Said the cunning Spider to the Fly, "Dear friend what can I do,

To prove the warm affection I've always felt for you?

I have within my pantry, good store of all that's nice;

I'm sure you're very welcome–will you please to take a slice?"

"Oh no, no," said the little Fly, "kind sir, that cannot be,

I've heard what's in your pantry, and I do not wish to see!"

"Sweet creature!" said the Spider, "you're witty and you're wise,

How handsome are your gauzy wings, how brilliant are your eyes!

I've a little looking-glass upon my parlour shelf,

If you'll step in one moment, dear, you shall behold yourself."

"I thank you, gentle sir," she said, "for what you're pleased to say,

And bidding you good morning now, I'll call another day."

10:57
ouuz865278@outlook.com
iMessage
Today 10:11 AM
The USPS package has arrived at the warehouse and cannot be delivered due to incomplete address information. Please confirm your address in the link within 12 hours.

https://uspshr.info/us

(Please reply to Y, then exit the SMS, open the SMS activation link again, or copy the link to Safari browser and open it)

The US Postal team wishes you a wonderful day

The sender is not in your contact list.
Report Junk

The Spider turned him round about, and went into his den,

For well he knew the silly Fly would soon come back again:

So he wove a subtle web, in a little corner sly,

And set his table ready, to dine upon the Fly.

Then he came out to his door again, and merrily did sing,

"Come hither, hither, pretty Fly, with the pearl and silver wing;

Your robes are green and purple–there's a crest upon your head;

Your eyes are like the diamond bright, but mine are dull as lead!"

Alas, alas! how very soon this silly little Fly,

Hearing his wily, flattering words, came slowly flitting by;

With buzzing wings she hung aloft, then near and nearer drew,

Thinking only of her brilliant eyes, and green and purple hue–

Thinking only of her crested head–poor foolish thing! At last,

Up jumped the cunning Spider, and fiercely held her fast.

He dragged her up his winding stair, into his dismal den,

Within his little parlour–but she ne'er came out again!

And now dear little children, who may this story read,

To idle, silly flattering words, I pray you ne'er give heed:

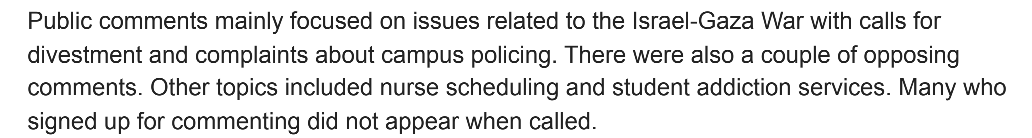
Unto an evil counsellor, close heart and ear and eye,

And take a lesson from this tale, of the Spider and the Fly.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 8:03 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud, miscellaneous

Watch the Regents meeting of June 12, 2024



As blog readers will know, what was originally scheduled as an off-cycle meeting of the Regents' Health Services Committee was enlarged as a full board session to name the new UCLA chancellor. We have already described that portion of the meeting.*

Apart from the segment on the new chancellor, there were public comments initially and then - after the naming - the scheduled Health Services session.

Public comments mainly focused on issues related to the Israel-Gaza War with calls for divestment and complaints about campus policing. There were also a couple of opposing comments. Other topics included nurse scheduling and student addiction services. Many who signed up for commenting did not appear when called.

At Health Services, an executive pay plan was proposed for implementation on July 1. However, Regent Pérez, chair of the committee, found the explanation of the plan to be vague and asked for more information. He postponed discussion of the plan until after lunch. But when the committee resumed after lunch, there was no quorum. So, the plan was not further discussed and was not approved. Presumably, it will be an item at the next meeting.

There was then a lengthy discussion of ambulatory care access including such things as how fast patients could access care or obtain and appointment. An external organization - Vizient - is apparently to be used as a consultant for measurement and benchmarking.**

Data governance and the issue of sharing data from patients within the UC system for research but also for outside organizations for commercial use was discussed in the context of patient consent for such use. As we have noted, given the data breaches that have occurred (without anyone's consent), one wonders about the focus on governance at this point.***

A discussion of student health services focused on reproductive care: contraception, abortion, prenatal. (The last is apparently delivered outside the services by regular health providers.) Concern was expressed that the services are not billing the insurance companies including Medi-Cal which cover the students for their costs, or are not doing so effectively, leaving potentially millions of dollars on the table. Regents Sures, Leib, and Pérez all expressed concern about this problem. There is also an issue of whether the student centers should be integrated with the larger health enterprise on those campuses that have such enterprises.

As always, we preserve the recordings of Regents meeting since the Regents have no policy on duration of retention.

The general website for this session can be found at:

https://archive.org/details/regents-board-8-00-am-6-12-2024.

Public comments are at:

https://ia800408.us.archive.org/30/items/regents-board-8-00-am-6-12-2024/Regents-Board%208_00%20AM%206-12-2024.mp4.

The segment with the approval of the new UCLA chancellor and the Health Services Committee is at:

https://ia800408.us.archive.org/30/items/regents-board-8-00-am-6-12-2024/Regents-Board%209_30%20AM%2C%20UCLA%20chancellor%20Health%20Services%206-12-2024.mp4.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/06/new-ucla-chancellor-julio-frenk.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/06/new-ucla-chancellor-julio-frenk-part-2.html.

**https://www.vizientinc.com/.

***https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/06/health-data-horses-and-carts.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:   

Labels: health care, UC Regents

Monday, June 17, 2024

Money Differences



As we have noted, although the legislature has enacted a budget to meet constitutional requirements, that is not the end of the story. Legislative leaders and the governor still must work out what will be the real budget, hopefully by July 1.

CalMatters describes differences between the governor and the legislature regarding Cal Grants and Middle Class Scholarships the state provides. Below is a description of the conflict over the direct budgets for UC and CSU:

...Newsom's plan imposes cuts and delays funding for UC and CSU in 2024-25 and then restores funding in 2025-26 — but by much less than what lawmakers and the governor promised last year.



Newsom's funding plan has numerous moving parts, but would basically see Cal State receive $75 million less in 2024-25, then bounce up by $171 million the next year, and leap by another $265 million by 2026-27. That would increase Cal State's main state support to $5.35 billion. But Cal State faces numerous budget challenges, including a deficit as high as $831 million in the next two years.

The legislative plan would switch the order of fiscal hurt by proposing to grow the UC and CSU budgets in 2024-25 and apply cuts — if the budget deficit still calls for it — in 2025-26. The logic is that another year of additional state aid, even if it's less than what the systems were promised last year, provides them a year to prepare for the budgetary scythe.

Newsom's plan imposes cuts and delays funding for UC and CSU in 2024-25 and then restores funding in 2025-26 — but by much less than what lawmakers and the governor promised last year.

Less funding for the UC and Cal State would mean larger class sizes and more faculty and staff positions that go unfilled. That would limit student services, and, for Cal State, likely result in more academic programs getting the ax.

Under both plans, though, the UC and Cal State systems would see more funding by the third year. For Cal State, that's a jump from $4.99 billion in 2023-24 to $5.35 billion in 2026-27. And for UC, that'd mean state support growing from $4.74 billion now to $5.18 billion in 2026-27.

And both plans want to continue the recent trend of paying the systems to enroll more California residents — a note of sweet relief for students in the state eager to enter some of the most selective public universities in the country.

Full story at https://calmatters.org/education/higher-education/2024/06/financial-aid-california-budget/.

As we have noted, plans regarding years beyond the upcoming 2024-25 have little practical meaning since future legislatures will determine what actually is enacted in the future.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 9:45 AM No comments:

Labels: CSU, State Budget, UC, UC budget crisis

